

WEEK 4: EZEKIEL

DAY 1: GOD CALLED EZEKIEL IN BABYLON TO WARN THE PEOPLE

1. With the basket of good figs, what did Jeremiah say God would give to the people who went to Babylon?

With the basket of bad figs, what did Jeremiah say would happen to those who stayed in Jerusalem?

With the stones buried near the door of the king's house, what did Jeremiah say would happen to those who ran away to Egypt?

2. Jeremiah prophesied that those who went to Babylon would receive a new agreement from God. But those who stayed in Jerusalem or ran to Egypt would be destroyed.

We have now studied the books of two prophets, Isaiah and Jeremiah. I hope you have seen that in these books, God's message was very clear. If the people did not repent of their sins, God would punish them. If they repented and obeyed God, he would bless them. This week, we will study the book of Ezekiel. It is another book of the Big Prophets. Ezekiel's message was like the message of Isaiah and Jeremiah. The only difference is that God had already started to punish Israel. This is what we will learn today.

- (1) Ezekiel was in Babylon when God showed him his glory and called him.
- (2) God told Ezekiel to warn the people of Israel to repent or die.

Take your Bible now and read Ezekiel 1:1-4.

3. God keeps his promises. His destruction of Jerusalem lasted for twenty years. The enemy came to fight against the city. Twenty years later it was destroyed and the temple was burned. Many people were killed, but many were taken as prisoners to live in Babylon. Daniel and Ezekiel were some of those who were taken.

What nation did God use to punish Judah? _____

4. God used Babylon to punish them. They took people from Jerusalem at many different times. When Ezekiel arrived in Babylon, Daniel was already there. Ezekiel had been a leader among his people in their own land. He was a priest. When the king of Babylon took ten thousand people from Judah, God knew they needed a preacher. So he made the king take Ezekiel to Babylon too.

Do you think Ezekiel could work for God in a strange land? _____

5. Ezekiel was needed very much in the land of Babylon. God wanted him there. Sometimes we fail to see God's hand in the things which happen to us. Often he is the one who lets things happen. This is so we will learn to serve him.

There was already a prophet working for God in Jerusalem. This was Jeremiah. But God wanted Ezekiel in Babylon. After he arrived there, God called him. He began to preach. He preached to the people who were brought there from Israel. Jeremiah and Ezekiel said many of the same things. But they spoke to different people.

Why was Ezekiel not in his own land? _____

6. You can say it was because he was taken to Babylon by the king. Or you can say it was because God wanted him there. Both answers are right.

In Ezekiel chapter 1, you have read that God gave Ezekiel a picture of his glory. Isaiah also saw God's glory. God called these men after they had seen his glory. Before we can serve God well, we must see how great he is. When we see this, we know how weak and sinful we are. We also know how God can help us.

In what country was Ezekiel when God showed him his glory and called him?

7. He was in Babylon when God called him. He was far away from his own land. He was in the hands of the enemies of Israel. But God showed him his glory. He tried to write down what he saw. He saw a vision of God in his heavenly seat. He saw brightness, a strong wind, fire, lightning, and a great cloud. Then he saw living creatures, and wheels, and an open space above them. Above this was a seat with something like a person on it. There is much we cannot understand about this vision. But we can see that God is very great and has much glory.

Ezekiel 1:28:

Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Who saw God's glory and was called when he was a prisoner in Babylon?

8. This was Ezekiel. He saw God's glory when he was a prisoner in Babylon. He was far from home. But God was with him. And God called him to work for him. God had a very hard job for Ezekiel to do. He wanted Ezekiel to warn Israel that unless they repented, they would die in their sins.

Ezekiel 2:1-3:

And he said to me, "Son of man, stand upon your feet, and I will speak with you I send you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels, who have rebelled against me; they and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day.

From this verse, what kind of people were the people of Israel? _____

9. God said they were a nation of rebels. This meant that they wanted to fight against God. These were the people Ezekiel must preach to. When God gives a hard job to someone, he prepares him for that work. God told Ezekiel what the people of Israel were like. He said they would not listen to Ezekiel. But God gave Ezekiel a book of his words and told him to eat them. With God's word filling his heart, Ezekiel could be strong to preach. He must warn the people to repent or die.

Ezekiel 2:7:

And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear.

In what country was Ezekiel when God showed him his glory and called him?

10. Ezekiel was in Babylon. He was a prisoner along with the rest of the people. God was already punishing them. Now he called Ezekiel to warn them that they must repent or die.

God gave Ezekiel a book. The book told what God must do to his people if they did not repent. It said that the people would suffer for disobeying God. It would be very hard for Ezekiel to preach these words of God to the people.

To what people must Ezekiel preach that they must repent or die? _____

11. He must preach this to the people of Israel. God knew it would not be easy. He explained to Ezekiel why he had to do it. Many of the people of Israel would die. They would die in their sins. They would be separated from God forever. God wanted to warn them of this. God does not want anyone to die forever. He wants everyone to repent.

What must Ezekiel warn the people of Israel about? _____

12. He must warn them to repent or die. Ezekiel was to be a watchman. Many years ago here in Nigeria, the people lived on the tops of hills. At that time, the tribes often fought each other. There was always a watchman at the highest place on the hill. He was watching for enemy tribes. As soon as a watchman saw the enemy coming, he began to beat a message on the drum. The message said that the enemy was coming. The people on the other hills heard the message and prepared to fight. If a watchman saw the enemy and did not tell the people, he was killed.

Who called Ezekiel to warn the people to repent or die? _____

13. It was God who gave Ezekiel the job of watchman. He was to warn the people of Israel. If Ezekiel did not warn them, God said he would punish Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 33:7-8:

So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die; and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

What did God tell Ezekiel to do for the people of Israel? _____

14. God told Ezekiel to warn the people to repent or die. They would not have to die. They could repent of their sins and be saved. But if they would not repent of their sins, then they must die for them.

In what country was Ezekiel when God showed him his glory and called him?

15. Ezekiel was in Babylon. He was with the people who were being punished. God showed Ezekiel how great he is. Then he called him to work for him.

What did God tell Ezekiel to do for the people of Israel? _____

16. God said Ezekiel should warn the people to repent or die. God is still calling men to do this work. Today he is calling preachers and evangelists to be his prophets. Perhaps you have not thought of yourself as a watchman. Perhaps you have not seen that God puts much work on you. The people around you must hear of God's judgment for their sin. They must hear of God's love to those who repent.

If you do not warn your people about these things, what will happen to them?

If you do not warn your people, what will happen to you? _____

17. We will talk about these questions in class.

In what country was Ezekiel when God showed him his glory and called him?

What did God tell Ezekiel to do for the people of Israel? _____



WEEK 4: EZEKIEL

DAY 2: EZEKIEL GAVE MANY MESSAGES FROM THINGS IN HIS LIFE

1. Yesterday we learned about Ezekiel's call to be a prophet.

In what country was Ezekiel when God showed him his glory and called him?

What did God tell Ezekiel to do for the people of Israel? _____

2. Ezekiel was in Babylon when God called him. God told him to warn the people to repent or die. Ezekiel and his people were far away from Jerusalem. They were prisoners in the land of Babylon. But God wanted them to know what was happening in Jerusalem. He wanted them to know that the words of the prophets were being fulfilled. So he told Ezekiel to live out in his life the things which were happening.

Did God care about the people of Israel who were prisoners in Babylon? _____

3. God cared about them. He still wanted to bless them. He told Ezekiel to show by the way he lived what was happening in Jerusalem. Here are some of the things Ezekiel taught. At the end of the lesson you will write two of them.

- (1) Ezekiel drew a picture of Jerusalem on a brick and made war against it. This showed that Jerusalem was being fought against.
- (2) Ezekiel lay on the ground and ate very little food each day. This showed that it was hard to find food in Jerusalem.
- (3) Ezekiel packed up his things and moved by night. This showed the way in which the people of Jerusalem were trying to run away.
- (4) Ezekiel's wife died and he was not allowed to cry out. This showed that the people in Babylon must not cry when Jerusalem was destroyed.

Take your Bible now and read Ezekiel 4:1-3.

4. Ezekiel acted out his prophecies in his life. Many of his prophecies told about the city of Jerusalem. God told Ezekiel to take a brick. He should draw a picture of Jerusalem on it. Then he should put army camps and tools for fighting around it. Then he should gather soil and make a wall to show that the people could not get out of the city. Ezekiel did all these things.

From this prophesy, what was happening to the city of Jerusalem? _____

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5. You can say that Jerusalem was being fought against. Or it was being destroyed. Or Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem.

The fighting against Jerusalem happened just as Ezekiel showed. The armies of Babylon went up to Jerusalem. They stayed around the city for a year and a half. No one could get out to buy food. No one could go in to sell food. Many people died.

How did Ezekiel show that the city of Jerusalem was being fought against?

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6. He drew a picture of Jerusalem on a brick and made war against it. Then God wanted the people in Babylon to know how the people in Jerusalem were suffering. There was very little food. Each person was allowed only a little food and water each day. So God told his prophet to measure only a little food and water for himself each day. This must have been hard, but the prophet did it.

Which prophet ate little food to show that Jerusalem had little food? _____

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7. This was the prophet Ezekiel. He drew a picture of Jerusalem and made war against it. He ate little food each day. Then God told Ezekiel to do something to himself. He cut off all his hair. He carefully divided it into three parts. The first part he burned, and the second part he cut into pieces with a sword. These parts showed that people in Jerusalem were dying. The third part he threw into the air. This showed that part of the people would be scattered.

What did Ezekiel show when he ate little food? _____

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8. This showed that there was little food in Jerusalem. Ezekiel acted out his prophecies in his own life. He showed that Jerusalem was being fought against. He showed that the people had little food. He showed that many of them were dying. Ezekiel cut off his hair and destroyed it in three parts. But before he threw away the third part, he took a few hairs and hid them in his clothes. These were the few people whom God would bring back to Jerusalem. God would use them to make a new nation some day.

Why were so many bad things happening to Jerusalem? _____

9. It was because of the sins of the people. Or because they would not obey God. Or because they would not repent. All of these answers are right. Ezekiel showed the people in Babylon what was happening in Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 4:16:

Moreover he said to me, "Son of man, behold, I will break the staff of bread in Jerusalem; they shall eat bread by weight and with fearfulness; and they shall drink water by measure and in dismay.

How did Ezekiel show that Jerusalem had little food? _____

10. He showed this by eating little food himself. The time came near for Jerusalem to be destroyed. God told Ezekiel to pack up his things and move. He should pack his things by day so the people could see him. But he should leave by night. This would show how the people were trying to run away from the city in the dark.

From what city were they running, as shown when Ezekiel packed his things?

11. They were running away from Jerusalem. Jerusalem was being fought against. There was very little food.

Ezekiel 12:7:

And I did as I was commanded. I brought out my baggage by day, as baggage for exile (or running away); and in the evening I dug through the wall with my own hands; I went forth in the dark, carrying my outfit (or things) on my shoulder in their sight.

What did Ezekiel show when he packed his things and moved at night? _____

12. He showed that the people were running away from Jerusalem. But perhaps the hardest lesson from Ezekiel's life was still coming. It touched his wife. Ezekiel loved his wife very much. But God told him that his wife would die on the day Jerusalem was destroyed. God told Ezekiel he must be an example to the people in Babylon. He must not cry out loud for his wife when she died. This would show that the people must not cry for Jerusalem.

How did Ezekiel show that the people of Jerusalem would run away in the dark?

13. He showed this by packing his things and moving at night. Jerusalem would soon be destroyed. The people of Judah loved Jerusalem very much. But God said they must not cry when she was destroyed. Jerusalem was being destroyed because of sin. It was better for her to be destroyed than for her people to go on sinning.

Ezekiel 24:15-16 and 24:

Also the word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, behold, I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you at a stroke; yet you shall not mourn or weep nor shall your tears run down. Thus shall Ezekiel be to you a sign; according to all that he has done you shall do. When this comes, then you will know that I am the Lord God."

What thing in Ezekiel's life showed that the people should not cry for Jerusalem?

14. Ezekiel's wife died and he was not allowed to cry out.

Ezekiel 24:18:

So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening, my wife died. And on the next morning, I did as I was commanded.

When Ezekiel's wife died and he did not cry out, what did this show? _____

15. This showed that the people of Israel must not cry for Jerusalem. Ezekiel acted out his prophecies in his life. This is what God told him to do.

Write two things in Ezekiel's life which he used in preaching. Write what these things showed about Jerusalem.

(1) _____

(2) _____

16. Look back to Number 3 at the beginning of this lesson. See whether you have written two of the things well.

God asked Ezekiel to be an example to his people. Perhaps God has asked you to do this also. Think back over the time you have been in God's work. Try to remember a time when your life could have been used as an example. Perhaps you did not obey God completely. Then you could not be an example to your people. Or perhaps there was a time when you could have been an example. But you did not use this in your preaching. Think carefully.

Write down one thing from your life which you could use as an example in your preaching.

17. We will talk about this in class.

Write two things in Ezekiel's life which he used in preaching. Write what these things showed about Jerusalem.

(1) _____

(2) _____

WEEK 4: EZEKIEL

DAY 3: THE GLORY OF GOD LEFT THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

1. We have learned how Ezekiel saw God's glory before he was called to be a prophet. Yesterday we saw some of the messages which Ezekiel gave.

Write two things in Ezekiel's life which he used in preaching. Write what these things showed.

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Turn back to Number 3 in yesterday's lesson to see if you have written them well.

Today we want to study about another time when Ezekiel saw God's glory. If you have studied about Solomon, you remember that he built a temple for God. This temple was in Jerusalem. But now Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed. One day Ezekiel was taken to the temple in a vision. In the vision he saw God's glory leave the temple. This is what we will learn today.

- (1) God's glory left the temple because of the sin of the people.
- (2) It will come back when Christ sets up his kingdom on earth.

Take your Bible now and read Ezekiel 9:1-3.

3. The time for the destruction of Jerusalem was very near. God took Ezekiel to Jerusalem in a vision to show him what was happening. He took him to the temple. The temple was a beautiful building. When Solomon had finished building it, something wonderful happened.

1 Kings 8:10-11:

And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

From this verse, what happened when the temple in Jerusalem was built?

4. God's glory came to the temple which Solomon built. It came as a bright cloud that the priests could not look at. It went into the Holy of Holies. It rested between the two golden cherubim or angels. God showed that he was pleased with the temple Solomon had built.

From the time of Solomon until the time of Ezekiel, God's glory was in the temple. The High Priest saw it when he went into the Holy of Holies once a year. But now the people had turned from God. They were using the temple in the wrong way.

Can the glory of God stay where people have turned away from God? _____

5. God is holy. The Bible says that he cannot look on sin. In Ezekiel's time the people used the temple for all kinds of sin. The glory of God could not stay there. God brought Ezekiel in the spirit from Babylon to Jerusalem. He took him into the temple.

Ezekiel 8:4:

And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain. . . . And he said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations (or shameful things) that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary (or temple)?"

What did the glory of God have to do because of the sins of the people?

6. It had to leave the temple. God showed Ezekiel what the leaders and people were doing in the temple. They were worshipping idols. They were praising unclean animals. Women were weeping for idols. Men had their backs to the Holy of Holies and were worshipping the sun.

What had to leave the temple because of the sins of the people? _____

7. The glory of God had to leave the temple. The people of Israel had brought idols into God's house. They worshipped the idols instead of God. God had said, "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image." God is God alone. There are no others. All others are idols or evil spirits. If we worship anything else, we are not following God. God could not stay in his temple. God is pure and holy.

Ezekiel 9:3:

Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherubim (or angels) on which it rested, to the threshold (or door) of the house.

Why did God's glory have to leave the temple? _____

8. It was because of the sins of the people. Ezekiel had seen a wonderful vision of God's glory. Now he saw it leaving.

Ezekiel 10:18-19:

Then the glory of the Lord went forth from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. And the cherubim . . . mounted up from the earth . . . with the wheels beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate . . . and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

What did God's glory do because of the sin of the people? _____

9. God's glory left the temple. For awhile it was still inside the city. But then it moved again.

Ezekiel 11:22-23:

Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood upon the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.

Why did God's glory have to leave the temple and the people of Israel? _____

10. God's glory had to leave because of the sin of the people. The mountain on the east side of the city is the Mount of Olives. It is outside the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the place God had chosen for his glory. He had placed his chosen people there. When he left Jerusalem, he left his people. He stopped at the east gate and finally went to the Mount of Olives. He had to leave because of sin. But he promised to come back when Christ sets up his kingdom on earth.

Do you think God wanted to take his glory away from the temple? _____

11. We see that God did not want to go because he stopped as he went. We also know he did not want to go because he showed Ezekiel that he would return. The glory of God is not talked about again in Ezekiel until Chapter 43. Here we see God's glory coming back. The last chapters of Ezekiel are not all fulfilled yet. Some of the prophecies are still coming. God's glory will return.

God's glory will return when who sets up his kingdom on earth? _____

12. This will be when Christ sets up his kingdom on earth. Ezekiel was given prophecies for his own time. And he was also given prophecies for the future. Some of these prophecies are still not fulfilled. Let us read what Ezekiel saw in the later visions which God gave him.

Ezekiel 43:1-2:

Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate facing east. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the east; and the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory.

What will happen to God's glory when Christ sets up his kingdom on earth?

13. God's glory will return at this time. Tomorrow we will see that at this time the people of Israel will accept Christ as their Saviour. They will be given new life. They will worship only God.

When will God's glory return as Ezekiel saw in the vision? _____

14. God's glory will return when Christ sets up his kingdom on earth. The people of Israel will receive Christ. They will worship God truly. But we do not have to wait until that time to have God's glory in our hearts. The nation of Israel can be used as a picture of a person today. God cannot live in a heart that is full of sin. But when a person receives Jesus as his Saviour, he is cleansed. He is given new life. God wants his body as a temple in which he can live.

Why did the glory of God have to leave the temple and the people of Israel?

15. God's glory had to leave because of the sin of the people. But he will return to earth some day as Ezekiel saw in the vision. He also comes into our hearts today if we will receive him. He makes our bodies the temple of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19:

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

When will the glory of God return to earth as Ezekiel saw in the vision?

16. This will be when Christ sets up his kingdom on earth. We are looking forward to this time. It will be a time of great joy. But we can have joy in our hearts now. We can give our bodies as temples for the Holy Spirit. But remember that he cannot live in a place that is full of sin.

There are some things which are hard to understand in the book of Ezekiel. But there are many things we can learn from this book. Your people need to hear how the glory of God left the temple. They need to hear that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. They need to understand what drives the glory of God away.

Prepare a sermon for your people from today's lesson. On another paper write the things which you want to say. Write the verses from Ezekiel and from 1 Corinthians which you will use.

17. We will see your paper in class.

Why did God's glory leave the temple and the people of Israel? _____

When will God's glory return to earth as Ezekiel saw in the vision? _____

WEEK 4: EZEKIEL

DAY 4: EZEKIEL PROPHESED NEW LIFE FOR ISRAEL

1. Yesterday we saw that God's glory left the temple and the people of Israel. But God told Ezekiel that some day he would return.

Why did God's glory leave the temple and the people of Israel? _____

When will God's glory return to earth as Ezekiel saw in the vision? _____

2. God's glory left the temple because of the sin of the people. It will return when Christ sets up his kingdom on earth. Today the people of Israel do not have a temple. They have houses for prayer, but they do not have a temple. They believe in God, but they do not accept Christ. They say the Saviour has not yet come.

But the time is coming when the people of Israel will accept Christ. They will have new life. God showed this to Ezekiel through a vision. This is what we will learn today.

- (1) Through a vision, Ezekiel saw the people of Israel as a valley of dry bones.
- (2) The message of this vision was that Israel will have new life.

Take your Bible now and read Ezekiel 37:1-6.

3. We have seen that God used Ezekiel to warn the people. He was to warn them about the punishment which was coming. God has had to punish Israel very much. They knew what was right, but they continued in sin. There is still much suffering ahead for Israel. But in the last chapters of his book, Ezekiel gives promises of blessing. God will make the people of Israel a good nation in the future. She will become a blessing to the whole world.

Did the future look good for Israel when Ezekiel saw them as a valley of dry bones?

4. Dry bones of people do not look good. They do not look as if they can live. This is how the people looked when Jerusalem had been destroyed. It was at this time that God gave Ezekiel prophecies about the future. Ezekiel wrote about the future in two parts.

Chapters 33-39 tell about new life for the people themselves.

Chapters 40-48 tell about new life for the land.

What people looked like the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel's vision?

5. It was the people of Israel. Their city and their temple had been destroyed. Many of the people had been killed. The rest of the people had been taken away. There seemed to be no life left in them.

A dry bone is from the body of a person or animal. The bone means the living thing is now dead. We buy the bone of a cow in the market. Yesterday the cow was alive but today it is dead. When we hold a bone, or put in on the fire to cook, we do not think of the live animal. Bones do not have any life of their own. And these bones in the valley were dry bones!

Who saw the people of Israel as a valley of dry bones? _____

6. Ezekiel saw this vision. He saw dry bones. Dry bones tell us that life has been gone for a long time. The bones are white and smooth and easily broken. Ezekiel saw bones everywhere.

Ezekiel 37:11:

Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.'"

How did Ezekiel see the people of Israel in the valley? _____

7. Ezekiel saw the people of Israel as a valley of dry bones. Then God asked him if the bones could live again. If anyone but God had been talking, Ezekiel would have said, "No". But since he was talking to God, he said, "Lord, you know."

Then God told Ezekiel to prophesy that the bones would live. They would come back together. Flesh and skin would cover them. God would breathe his Spirit into them and they would live. The message of the dry bones was that Israel would have new life.

How could the people of Israel get this message from God? _____

8. They must hear it through a prophet. Ezekiel had to tell them. God had promised Abraham that he would make a great nation of him. He promised that through him all the people of the world would be blessed. We have been blessed already because it was through Abraham's children that Christ came. All who have accepted Jesus have been blessed. But God wants to make the nation of Israel a blessing to the world also. God has had to punish Israel because of her sin. But some day she will have new life and be a blessing to the world.

How did Ezekiel see the people of Israel in the valley? _____

9. He saw them as dry bones. Ezekiel prophesied as God said that the bones would live. Then he stood looking at the valley. Suddenly there was a noise. The bones got up and began moving toward each other. They moved together until bodies were formed. Flesh came on the bones. Skin covered everything up. They looked like people, but they were dead.

From the message of the dry bones, who would have new life? _____

10. The people of Israel would have this. In Ezekiel's vision, the people needed life. Only God can give life. And he had promised Ezekiel that he would make the bones live. So he told Ezekiel to call for the Spirit of God to come and enter the bodies. Ezekiel spoke as God told him. The bodies of people began to breathe. They lived and stood on their feet. They were ready to serve God.

From the message of the dry bones, what would the people of Israel have some day?

11. They would have new life. God breathed into the bodies in the valley and made them live. Then he explained to Ezekiel what this vision meant. He said that the bones were the whole people of Israel. They were scattered to many nations. These nations were like graves to them. But God would bring them out of their graves. Then he would give them something new.

What was the message of the vision of dry bones? _____

12. The message was that Israel would have new life. Ezekiel saw the bones come back together from all over the valley. He saw bodies grow and skin cover them. This is what we are seeing today. The people of Israel are coming back to their own country. They are a nation like the other nations of the world. Ezekiel saw that the bodies were bodies of people. But he saw that they were not alive.

What does Israel need that she does not have now? _____

13. You can answer in different ways. You can say that she needs life. Or she needs faith in Christ. Many of the people of Israel are in their own land. But they are not living in faith. They are not living in obedience to God. They are dead in their sins. They have not received Jesus as their Saviour. Only Jesus by the Spirit can give eternal life. The New Testament says that if we do not accept Jesus, we are dead in sin.

Ephesians 2:1:

And you he made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins.

How did Ezekiel first see Israel in the valley? _____

14. He first saw them as dry bones. Israel is still being punished for her sin. When the punishment is done, Christ will come. He will set up his kingdom on earth. He will judge all nations. Then the people of Israel will see Christ as the one they crucified. They will know he is their Saviour. He will change their hearts.

Ezekiel 36:26-27:

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you.

What is the message of the valley of dry bones? _____

15. The message of the dry bones is that Israel will have new life some day. It will be a wonderful time. Paul tells about this in his writing in the New Testament.

Romans 11:13-15:

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection (or refusing) means the reconciliation (or saving) of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

The Jews will some day receive Christ. But God is not only interested in the people of Israel.

Who besides the people of Israel can have new life? _____

16. We will talk about this in class.

How did Ezekiel first see the nation of Israel in the valley? _____

What is the message of this vision? _____

WEEK 4: EZEKIEL

DAY 5: EZEKIEL PROPHESED NEW LIFE FOR THE LAND

1. We have studied the book of Ezekiel for four days. We learned how God called Ezekiel. We saw the things in Ezekiel's life by which he prophesied. We saw how God's glory left the temple and how it will return. Yesterday we learned about the people of Israel.

How did Ezekiel see the nation of Israel in the valley? _____

What is the message of this vision? _____

2. Ezekiel saw the nation of Israel in the valley as dry bones. The message of this vision is that Israel will some day have new life. Today we will see that there is also new life for the land. This is what we will learn.

- (1) In Ezekiel's vision, a river flowed from under the door of the new temple.
- (2) This brought new life to the land.
- (3) Today the Holy Spirit can flow through our lives and give new life.

Take your Bible now and read Ezekiel 47:1-9. Read verse 1 again. From this verse, where was the water coming from in the new land?

3. In these verses, Ezekiel was having a vision. He saw Israel as a new land. The water for the land came from under the door of the new temple. Ezekiel saw wonderful things in his visions. He gave prophecies from these visions. Some of the prophecies were for the near future of Israel. Some prophecies are for us today. And some prophecies are for the time when Christ will set up his kingdom. The prophecies are all mixed together. Sometimes it is hard to tell which prophecies are for which time. But we know from Ezekiel that there are wonderful things ahead. In his vision Ezekiel saw a new temple.

What was coming out from under the door of the new temple? _____

4. Water was coming from the temple. It came out from under the door. It flowed east from the door. An angel led Ezekiel through the water. At first it was not very deep. It came just to Ezekiel's ankles. A little farther on they crossed the water again. This time it came up to Ezekiel's knees. The next time they crossed, the water came to Ezekiel's waist.

When water came from inside the temple, whom do you think it was coming from?

5. The temple was God's house. We think the water was coming from God. As it flowed away from the temple, it became deeper and deeper. At last the water was so deep Ezekiel could not cross without swimming. The angel told Ezekiel to look carefully at what he was seeing. There was new life everywhere.

Ezekiel 47:7-9:

As I went back, I saw upon the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other. And he said to me, "... everything will live where the river goes."

What new thing did the water give to the land? _____

6. It gave new life to the land. The things which Ezekiel saw sound like the things which John wrote about in the book of Revelation.

Ezekiel 47:12:

On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the Sanctuary (or temple).

In Ezekiel's vision, what came from under the door of the temple? _____

7. Ezekiel saw water coming from under the door of the new temple. He saw many trees by the new river. The trees would give food and medicine for the people. But the water would do more than that. The angel told Ezekiel that where the new river went, all the water would be sweet. The water would have fish in it. The salty water of the Dead Sea would become good water.

What gave new life to the land which Ezekiel saw? _____

8. The water coming from the new temple did this. Today if you go to Israel, you will not find a river going from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. You will find the Dead Sea full of salt. There are not fish in it. There is nothing living in it. We can say it is a picture of Israel without life.

In Ezekiel's vision, what did the water from the temple give to the land?

9. It gave the land new life. It came from the temple. The temple was God's house. It was where the glory of God was. Land that was dry began to grow trees with fruit. The Dead Sea came alive with all kinds of fish. Ezekiel saw that the land would have new life.

The people would have new life too. The people of Israel would have this. And people like us would have new life too. In the New Testament we see that the Holy Spirit is often said to be like water flowing in our lives.

In Ezekiel's vision, what came from under the door of the new temple?

10. Ezekiel saw water coming from the temple. Many years later, Jesus said that rivers of water would come from our hearts. This is what he preached in the temple one day.

John 7:37-39:

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water,'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive.

From the words of Jesus, who is the water which can flow through us? _____

11. The water which can flow through us is the Holy Spirit. As we give ourselves to him, he can do great things in our lives. In Ezekiel's vision he saw water coming from God flowing through the land of Israel.

What did the water give to the land? _____

12. The water from the temple gave new life to the land. It made the land bear fruit. Paul says that we can have the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. God wants to make our lives new and fruitful.

Galatians 5:22-23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Who can flow through our lives and give us new life and fruit? _____

13. The Holy Spirit can flow through us. He wants to do this. He wants to change every part of our lives. He wants to make us new all the time. He wants to cause us to bear fruit. But we must give ourselves to him. We must let him flow.

In Ezekiel's vision what came from under the door of the new temple?

14. Ezekiel saw water coming from the new temple. The water kept coming. It became a river which flowed through the land.

What did it give to the land? _____

15. The river gave new life to the land. It made trees to grow and bear fruit. It made fish to live in the sea.

Who can flow through our lives now and make us bear fruit? _____

16. The holy Spirit can flow through our lives as the river flowed through the land of Israel. Ezekiel prophesied for the people of his time. He also prophesied for us today. And he prophesied for the wonderful days which are still coming.

Today the Holy Spirit wants to flow through our lives. He wants to make our lives new every day. He wants to make us bear fruit.

Take time now to pray and search your heart. Ask God to show you how to let the Holy Spirit flow through your life.

17. In Ezekiel's vision what came from under the door of the new temple?

What did this give to the land? _____

Who can flow through our lives now and make us bear fruit? _____
